



File Code: 1570 (218)
Date: September 5, 2019

Dear Objector:

This letter is in response to the objections filed on the Little Boulder Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Record of Decision released by Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Supervisor Cheryl Probert. I have read your objections and reviewed the project record. My review of your objection was conducted in accordance with the administrative review procedures found at 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS

The regulations at 36 CFR 218.8 provide for a pre-decisional administrative review process in which the objector provides sufficient narrative description of the project, specific issues related to the project, and suggested remedies that would resolve the objections. The regulations also allow for parties to meet in order to resolve issues. One objector requested an objection resolution meeting which was held on September 3, 2019. Resolution was not reached, however I believe the meeting was fruitful in terms of gaining a better understanding of the objector's issues.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS

As specified at 36 CFR 218.11(b), I must provide a written response to your objections; however, this response need not be point by point. Based on my review, I am instructing the Responsible Official to address the following issues:

1. Re-initiate consultation with NMFS on impacts to Snake River Steelhead from the proposed Ruby Creek vented ford (Road 3308). (Response to Friends of the Clearwater, Issue 3, Contention 6)
2. Clarify that the Little Boulder Project is not a HFRA project by removing all references to it in the record, FEIS, and Record of Decision. (Response to Friends of the Clearwater, Issue 1, Contention 1a)
3. Fix the transcription error in the Northern Goshawk Report in the project file to make it consistent with the FEIS. (Response to Friends of the Clearwater, Issue 14d)
4. Modify the project file to display corrected WEPP Model calculations for Watershed Tons/Acre. (Response to Jagemen, Issue 23, Contention 3)

The Record of Decision will not be signed until these instructions are complete.



The review of objection issues has been posted to the Little Boulder project website.

CONCLUSION

My review finds the project is in compliance with all applicable laws and the Clearwater National Forest Plan (1987). The Forest Supervisor may sign the Decision Notice for this project once the above instructions are completed. My review constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture; no further review from any other Forest Service or Department of Agriculture official of my written response to your objection is available [36 CFR 218.11(b)(2)].

Sincerely,

JANE D. DARNELL
Deputy Regional Forester

cc: Cheryl Probert, Stefani Spencer, Zoanne Anderson, Cody Hutchinson, Olga Troxel